

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 23, 2013

Media Contact: Robert B. Thomas, Jr. at 410-638-3258 or 443-617-1954

County Officials Concerned Regarding Subfreezing Temperatures *Homeless and elderly population at risk*

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County Government officials have expressed concerns regarding the subfreezing temperatures which have hit the county and most of the State of Maryland. The National Weather Service is forecasting subfreezing temperatures to remain throughout the next several days.

"Our weather is going to be deadly cold the next few days and we are very concerned for our elderly and homeless population," said County Executive David R. Craig. "Preparation for this bitter cold weather is essential for survival," remarked the County Executive.

The Harford County Department of Community Services in cooperation with the Harford County Health Department and Harford County Division of Emergency Operations is urging homeless individuals to seek shelter, particularly during the evening hours and avoid as much as possible the bitter cold. According to health department officials, prolonged exposure to the frigid temperatures can cause body temperature to drop significantly which may lead to hypothermia, and can result in fatal consequences.

For those who venture out into the cold, the following safety tips are recommended:

- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing, gloves, hats, scarfs and waterproof boots.
- Cover exposed areas of the body to help prevent frostbite.
- Conserve energy and limit outside activities during the cold spell.
- Be aware of the wind chill factor.

The Harford County Department of Community Services has initiated the County's Freezing Weather Plan. The Plan will remain in effect through the duration of the severe weather event. Additionally, the Harford County Health Department is offering safety precautions via their website at www.harfordcountyhealth.com.

(more)

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To assist the homeless and those needing shelter during the day and evening hours, the Harford County Public Library will operate the following branches during the hours and locations listed:

Aberdeen Library
2510 Tollgate Road
Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-273-5608

Abingdon Library
21 Franklin Street
Abingdon, MD 21009
410-638-3990

Mon & Wed	10 am - 8 pm
Tue & Thurs.	1 pm - 8 pm
Fri & Sat	10 am - 5 pm
Sun	1pm - 5 pm

Bel Air Library
100 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-3151

Mon & Wed	10 am - 8 pm
Tue & Thurs.	11 am - 8 pm
Fri & Sat	10 am - 5 pm
Sun	1pm - 5 pm

Darlington Library
1134 Main Street
Darlington, MD 21034
410-638-3750

Mon, Tue & Wed	3 pm - 8 pm
Thu	12 noon – 5 pm
Fri	1 pm – 5 pm
Sat	10 am – 2 pm

(more)

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Edgewood Library
629 Edgewood Road
Edgewood, MD 21040
410-612-1600

Fallston Library
1461 Fallston Road
Fallston, MD 21047
410-638-3003

Havre de Grace Library
120 N. Union Avenue
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-6700

Jarrettsville Library
3722 Norrisville Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
410-692-7887

Joppa Library
655 Towne Center Drive
Joppa, MD 21085
410-612-1660

Norrisville Library
5310 Norrisville Road
Whitehall, MD 21161
410-692-7850

Whiteford Library
2407 Whiteford Road
Whiteford, MD 21160
410-638-3608

Mon & Wed	10 am - 8 pm
Tue & Thurs.	1 pm - 8 pm
Fri & Sat	10 am - 5 pm

“When severe, cold weather strikes we need to make sure that our neighbors, the elderly and those with special needs are checked on periodically to ensure their safety and well-being,” said County Executive Craig. “The subfreezing temperatures we are experiencing present unique health problems for young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. However, as a community including government, we must do all we can to protect these individuals during this difficult time of year,” Craig remarked.

For additional information regarding cold weather tips and temporary sheltering availability, contact the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations at 410-638-4900.

